

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus, comprising:
a feed section which feeds originals one by one;
a reading section which reads an image on an original fed from the feed section;
a storage section which stores image data read by the reading section;
a first control section which executes a control to feed the next original from the feed section, when the image data of said original has been stored in the storage section; and
a second control section which executes a control to read out the image data from the storage section and subjects the read-out data to an encoding process, the encoding process being a process to convert the read-out data into fixed-length codes in units of 2 x 2 pixels by a fixed-length encoding method, in parallel with the control by the first control section, and to store a result of the encoding process in the storage section.
2. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage section is a hard disk drive.
3. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the encoding process controlled by the second control section is a JPEG encoding process.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (New) A method for reading an image, comprising:
feeding originals one by one;
reading an image on each of the originals;
storing read image data;
controlling to feed the next original, when the image data of the original has been stored; and
controlling to read out the stored image data and to subject the read-out data to an encoding process, the encoding process being a process to convert the read-out data into fixed-length codes in units of 2 x 2 pixels by a fixed-length encoding method, in parallel with, controlling to feed the next original and to store a result of the encoding process.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the encoding process is a JPEG encoding process.